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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 62
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 5 April 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 1 April 1999, addressed to you by Aytuğ Plûmer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volkan VURAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 1 April 1999 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 12 March 1999 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations (A/53/863-S/1999/282), which contains allegations distorting the nature of the Cyprus question.

The Greek Cypriot side persistently seeks to create artificial issues such as "settlers" or "refugees" so as to divert attention from the crux of the Cyprus question, namely, the illegal claim of the Greek Cypriot administration to be the "government of Cyprus". Ever since the Greek Cypriot side's forceful usurpation of the legitimate seat of government in 1963, the Greek Cypriot administration has been violating the Turkish Cypriot people's vested rights of sovereign equality, partnership and fundamental freedoms through a campaign of ethnic cleansing during 1963-1974 and thereafter maintaining an inhuman embargo in all fields.

On the question of the so-called "settlers", it should be pointed out that it is the Greek Cypriot side which, together with Greece, has always attempted to alter the demographic character of Cyprus, not only by introducing thousands of settlers from Greece but also, as mentioned hereinabove, by trying to "cleanse" Cyprus of its ethnic Turkish population. It is noteworthy in this context that Mr. Andreas Papandreou, a former Prime Minister of Greece, has recorded in his memoir, Democracy at Gunpoint, that during 1964 alone as many as 20,000 troops and officers from Greece illegally entered the island to take part in the attempt to materialize the annexation of the island to Greece (enosis).

Ample evidence also exists in the United Nations Secretary-General's reports to the Security Council (e.g., documents S/5950 of September 1964 and S/8286 of December 1967) pertaining to the illegal importation of Greek mainland troops into Cyprus and their being given "legal status" in order to resettle them on the island on a permanent basis.

At present the Greek Cypriot administration continues to admit tens of thousands of people from other countries, and, as a result of the laxity of its immigration policies, South Cyprus has become, as widely reported in the international press, a centre for money-laundering, drugs, arms smuggling and other illicit activity.

As regards the question of displaced persons, it should be mentioned that nearly four fifths of the Turkish Cypriot population have been rendered refugees or have become displaced persons since 1963, some of them several times over, as a result of the Greek Cypriot side's attempts to annex Cyprus to Greece. It should be recalled that the issue of displaced persons was fundamentally settled between the two sides through the 1975 Voluntary Exchange of Population Agreement which was implemented under the supervision of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) in September 1975, paving the way for an overall settlement of the Cyprus issue on a bi-zonal basis (see the relevant

United Nations documents S/11789 of 5 August 1975 and S/11789/Add.1 of 10 September 1975).

A natural consequence of the population exchange agreement has been the establishment of parameters within which reciprocal property claims by both sides can be settled, as was foreseen in the United Nations process in the context of the mission of good offices, through property exchange and/or compensation. The Turkish Cypriot side has consistently maintained that the settlement of reciprocal property claims is essential for reconciliation between the two sides in Cyprus and a comprehensive settlement. If the Greek Cypriot side sincerely seeks to address this issue it should reciprocate to the proposal made by President Denktaş for the establishment of a Joint Property Claims Commission which would facilitate the resolution of property issues.

It is high time that third parties interested in a peaceful settlement of the Cyprus dispute impress upon the Greek Cypriot side the need to desist from its campaign of propaganda and defamation against the TRNC and Turkey, if ever there is to be reconciliation between the two sides in the island. A comprehensive settlement of the dispute can be facilitated through the acknowledgement of the prevailing reality on the island, namely, the existence of two sovereign States, and working towards a settlement based on partnership as envisaged in our proposal of 31 August 1998.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

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Fifty-third session
Agenda items 40 and 110
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 8 April 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to my earlier letters concerning Israel's practices in the part of Lebanon it occupies, I regret to inform you that on Tuesday, 6 April 1999, Israeli occupation forces ejected 18 residents of Shab'a from the occupied zone by way of the Zimriya crossing. Most of them were older persons, women and children. They were expelled as a reprisal after four members of the so-called "South Lebanon Army", which collaborates with the occupation, had fled to the liberated areas. With this large-scale expulsion, the number of residents expelled from Shab'a since the beginning of the year has risen to 70, a number that is likely to rise further if Israeli policy remains as it is.

Israeli occupation forces recently carried out reprisals against the inhabitants of Hasbaya by subjecting them to a lengthy siege, and they have also imposed a month-long siege on Ibl al-Saqi.

In bringing to your attention these facts concerning Israeli abuse of Lebanese civilians, which is incompatible with the 1949 fourth Geneva Convention, the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Charter of the United Nations and international norms, we request that the necessary efforts be made to return the deportees to their villages and to halt the abusive Israeli practices against civilians in the occupied areas. It would appear to be most essential for the members of the Security Council, and especially its permanent members, to take an initiative with the Government of Israel with a view to ending an anomalous situation that poses a threat to the lives and security of the inhabitants of the occupied areas of Lebanon.

I request you to have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 40 and 110, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir MOUBARAK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/53/905

General Assembly

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9 April 1999
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Fifty-third session
Agenda item 44
The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Letter dated 9 April 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the letter from the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations (A/53/882) addressed to you concerning agenda item 44, which makes reference to my letter of 13 January 1999 (A/53/795).

My delegation wishes to express its deep appreciation for the willingness of the distinguished Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to clarify the term he used to refer to the armed Costa Rican authorities, calling our civilian public forces "military". However, we consider that the reasons on which he based his explanation are not entirely correct. We understand how the "linguistic habit" of the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua, with respect to the term he uses to describe the armed authorities responsible for guarding the borders, fits in with the historical context of our sister country. The situation in Costa Rica has been very different, however, as illustrated by its history of over 100 years of democracy and 50 years without an army.

Accordingly, it should be noted that the laws of Costa Rica have not simply given a particular name to its national security forces. In proscribing the existence of an army, the Political Constitution of Costa Rica embodied a special aspiration and vision of what Costa Ricans desire their public forces to be. In Costa Rica, the concept of armed authorities is not only a matter of terminology, but of nature. For this reason, beyond what is established in our Constitution and irrespective of linguistic concerns, in our country we have developed a habit of living without military forces, a habit that has become well known to the international community, especially to our neighbouring countries.

With regard to the other aspects of the letter, we also declare that there is no dispute whatsoever between our countries concerning matters of territorial sovereignty. As for the right to freedom of navigation on the San Juan River, Costa Rica also reaffirms its willingness to abide by the provisions of the Cañas-Jerez Treaty and the Cleveland decision, to ensure that these instruments are correctly applied. Therefore, Costa Rica reaffirms its

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belief that its right to freedom of navigation under these legal instruments clearly includes the deployment of its civilian police forces for control purposes.

Lastly, Sir, I should like to say that Costa Rica, in view of its excellent relations with Nicaragua, reiterates its firm desire to continue to strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation that unite the Governments and peoples of the two Republics.

I should be grateful if you would have this clarification circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 44.

(*Signed*) Bernd **Niehaus**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Agenda item 45
THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN
AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR
INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND
SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Identical letters dated 12 April 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to forward herewith a letter dated 12 April 1999 from A. Abdullah, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan addressed to you (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 45, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. G. Ravan FARHADI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 12 April 1999 from the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan to the Secretary-General

Only weeks after the "Statement by the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan on behalf of the Afghan sides to the Ashgabat Peace Talks" and the "mutually agreed" points on the formation of "a shared Executive, a shared Legislature and a shared Judiciary", at the end of the three-day intra-Afghan dialogue under the auspices of the United Nations in Ashgabat on 14 March 1999, and while much optimism and efforts were under way to secure a date and venue for the second round of the peace talks between the parties - to which both sides gave their solemn consent - the Taliban have been intensely engaged in preparing for massive military operations to be launched soon against positions held by armed forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan throughout the country.

Incontrovertible evidence collected by the intelligence services of the Islamic State of Afghanistan indicates that the Government of Pakistan, for nearly three weeks now, has been supplying large consignments of light and heavy armaments and ammunition shipments to the Taliban. Regular convoys - consisting of precisely 11 truckloads - continue to pour from Peshawar, Pakistan, to the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad, three days a week. Similarly, a steady flow of arms from the city of Quetta, Baluchistan, to the southern Afghan city of Kandahar, the headquarters of the Taliban "Supreme Leader", is being simultaneously maintained.

Crucially important among all, however, was the dispatch on 23 March 1999 by the Pakistani Government of a Pakistani regiment of paramilitary force to Afghanistan, which is at present stationed in the Rishkhor Garrison in the western suburbs of the capital, Kabul, poised to be deployed in the Taliban pre-planned incursions. Nonetheless, the frequency and consequently the quantity of the arms shipped from Pakistan reached its highest peak in the first week of the arms shipping operation, dating back to 21 March 1999, during the course of which the international news media widely reported a temporary sealing-off by the Pakistani Government of the Torkham border checkpoint, and a shortage of commodities such as wheat flour in the capital, Kabul, caused by it, evidently in an attempt to cover up the round-the-clock shipping operation carried out by the Pakistani army.

It is important to note that following the Ashgabat peace "Statement", the Taliban, in total contradiction to the terms stipulated in the "mutually agreed" text, despite the fact that the "Statement" made no reference to the official names of the negotiating parties, made scores of declarations full of premeditated evasions and in fact connoting their intention to pursue war, which finally surfaced in a statement by the Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar on 10 April 1999, ruling out any further talks with the Government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

Thus stated, it was no surprise when Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz on 2 April 1999 renewed calls by his Government on the United Nations to impose an arms embargo on Afghanistan, a move which was calculatedly

orchestrated by Pakistan to render itself rather innocent, while leaving the Taliban already armed to the teeth.

The information given above, in addition to recent deployment and shipments of widespread logistics and personnel by the Taliban, north of Kabul and in the provinces of Kunduz, Ghor and Faryab, plus many more corroborating factors - all herald heavy fighting soon to be sparked by the Taliban, already facing mounting civilian resistance, directly assisted and engineered by the Government of Pakistan, which inevitably would be a severe blow to the United Nations peace process in Afghanistan at large, and an acute setback to the Ashgabat peace accord in particular.

Mindful of the above, it must be put on record that the armed forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan will remain vigilant and watchful with respect to these subversive activities of both Pakistan and the Taliban and will forcefully foil any attempt by warmongers aimed at subjugating Afghanistan.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan, long seeking a peaceful solution to the conflict in the country, wishes to reiterate its sincere commitment to the "agreement" of "a shared Executive, a shared Legislature and a shared Judiciary" with the Taliban concluded in Ashgabat and its unwavering support to the United Nations peace process in Afghanistan, and earnestly requests appropriate measures to ensure the halt of the ceaseless Pakistani interventions in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, the resumption of renewed fighting by the Taliban war machine leading to further genocide in the country and the exacerbation of the humanitarian crisis followed by military onslaughts.

(Signed) A. ABDULLAH
Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs
Islamic State of Afghanistan

United Nations A/53/907

General Assembly

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Fifty-third session
Agenda item 110
Human rights questions

Letter dated 6 April 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the statement made in Geneva on 24 March 1999 by Mr. Carlos Lage Dávila, Vice-President of the Council of State of the Republic of Cuba, at the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 110.

(Signed) Bruno **Rodríguez Parrilla**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Statement by Mr. Carlos Lage Dávila, Vice-President of the Council of State of Cuba, in the Commission on Human Rights, Geneva, 24 March 1999

For 40 years, the Cubans have been blockaded, attacked, systematically vilified and also, more than once, criticized and condemned for the laws and measures which they have been forced to adopt in their defence.

Over the past few weeks, much has been said about the amendments to Cuba's Criminal Code and about the Act for the Protection of the National Independence and the Economy of Cuba, both adopted by the Cuban Parliament on 16 February 1999, and about the trial in which, in full compliance with the law, four unpatriotic Cubans were sentenced.

In the resulting confusion, quite a few number of news media mixed up the new penalties established for ordinary crimes in the amendments to the Criminal Code with those applicable under a different law to individuals who act in the service of an enemy which is waging war on their nation.

The changes introduced into the Criminal Code are consistent with the characteristics and circumstances of the crime situation in the world and involve the addition of three new crimes: money laundering, trafficking in persons and the sale of minors. Penalties have also been increased for those crimes and associated conducts which most seriously affect public peace, the moral and ethical values of society, and public health.

It is true that the death penalty is established in extremely serious cases for the perpetrators of some truly appalling crimes, such as using the country for international drug trafficking, and serious acts of rape or corruption of minors, since in the prevailing global circumstances Cuba deems the death penalty indispensable for deterring these repugnant conducts.

Cuba respects those who, in many parts of the world, are opposed to capital punishment, and it shares their hope that the day will come when such a penalty will not be necessary in any society. However, as a country where contempt for the law is encouraged from abroad through thousands of hours of illegal broadcasting each week, Cuba cannot, for the time being, give up capital punishment, a penalty currently applied in countries which have not been subjected to this kind of hostility and blockade.

The amendments to Cuba's Criminal Code are based on internationally recognized legal principles and are, moreover, widely supported by the Cuban people, who, accustomed to the safety brought by the revolution, demanded harsher penalties for the perpetrators of such crimes.

The Act for the Protection of the National Independence and the Economy of Cuba has, for its part, been described by those who monopolize the flow of information as a piece of legislation which infringes freedom of thought and opinion. To imagine that this is possible is tantamount to assuming that a people who are used to fighting for their ideas are submissive and abject. No one is punished in Cuba for thinking or expressing opinions.

The Act is designed to punish citizens whose acts further the goals pursued by the aggressor Power with its economic war: to destabilize the country, subvert internal order and destroy the revolution. It defines crimes of collaboration with the enemy, not crimes of opinion as some have claimed.

The intense, unscrupulous United States war has forced not only Cuba but also the European Union and States such as Argentina, Canada and Mexico to adopt legislation to protect their sovereignty and independence in the face of extraterritorial decisions taken by the United States Congress.

The new Act protects the sovereignty and rights of not only Cubans but also nationals of third countries which have been particularly affected by the pressures, repressive measures and penalties imposed against them as part of the blockade policy.

For more than a year, a media campaign orchestrated from the United States spread lies about the Cuban revolution following the arrest of four Cuban citizens, who have now been tried for the crime of incitement to sedition and sentenced to penalties ranging from three and a half to five years in prison.

Their fate would have been different had they been tried in any United States court. In that country, for just some of the crimes which they committed in Cuba, they would have been found guilty of breaching the Treasury Department's regulations for the control of Cuban assets and received sentences of up to 10 years in prison and $250,000 in fines. Simply contacting a foreign Government or agent, without attempting to subvert or plot against the Government, is punishable under the Logan Act, in force for the past 200 years, by a fine of up to $5,000 and three years in prison.

At their trial, documentary evidence and the evidence of witnesses amply demonstrated that the accused had collaborated with the enemy over a period of time, through the United States Interests Section in Havana, from which they received instructions, funds and other resources for the purpose of, *inter alia,* obstructing foreign investments by resorting to all sorts of threats, internationalizing the criminal blockade against Cuba and upsetting internal order. As any other nation would do, Cuba claims its right to punish those who place themselves at the service of a Power which is attacking their own country.

The power of the media, the interests at stake, confusion of ideas, lack of information or irresponsible behaviour tend to create a situation where an aggressor's lies are given more credence that the evidence produced by the victims. We know that there are people in the world, even friends, who, based on comparisons with what happens in their own or other countries, have questioned the fairness of the trial, which was conducted with full guarantees and respect for the human person.

However, when it comes to judging Cuba and its revolution, the fact cannot be overlooked that Cuba is not just any country. Cuba is a permanent target of the hostility of the most powerful nation in the world, which has not let up for a moment in its threats and attacks. Cuba is a country blockaded by a super-Power which forces it to be permanently on the defensive and on the alert because of its determination not to add another star to the United States flag.

No one can attack a country for 40 years, try to force its people into submission through a criminal blockade or finance the annexationist dreams and counter-revolutionary activities of isolated groups of traitors and then blame that country for defending itself.

Were it not for the Helms-Burton Act, the blockade and the economic war against Cuba, designed to shatter Cuba's internal order, destabilize the country and destroy Cuba's socialist State and independence, the Act for the Protection of the National Independence and the Economy of Cuba would not be necessary. Only by recognizing that the situation faced by Cuba is exceptional and that no nation in history has had to endure the obdurate aggression of such a powerful and voracious neighbour can the events taking place in Cuba be understood. The war being waged against Cuba by the United States and its annexationist servants is but one war. There are no watertight compartments. Psychological warfare,

bombs, sedition, propaganda: anything goes and everything is used. There may be many faces, but there is only one goal.

The Commission on Human Rights should ask itself who authorized the United States to arrogate to itself apparently for life, the role of prosecutor against Cuba. Who gave the United States the right to set itself up, also apparently for life, as supreme judge of human rights violations worldwide?

Why must we accept that, year after year, the United States Department of State, by congressional mandate, produces thick reports detailing the human rights performance of every nation except, of course, the United States itself?

How can we allow the United States to pass judgement on the world in 5,000 pages of documents?

Are we supposed to allow a nation whose unrestrained drug use encourages drug production and trafficking unilaterally to issue certificates of bad conduct to countries of drug production, distribution or transit?

Why is the United States able to show scorn for the international community by refusing to acknowledge that the General Assembly has voted time and again against the policy of blockading Cuba?

Why is the United States allowed to adopt 61 unilateral economic sanctions against a group of countries that account for 42 per cent of the world's population, without even being admonished for it?

Why is the United States opposed to expanding the Security Council and allowing countries such as Brazil, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, South Africa and others to become permanent members of the Council with the same prerogatives as the current members?

The United States sets itself above everything and everyone in demanding accountability for human rights violations, while its own record in that area leaves much to be desired. In the United States, the wealthiest and most powerful nation in history:

(a) Nearly 1 million people live on the streets, under bridges or in emergency shelters, while just one of its citizens has wealth totalling $80 billion;

(b) Forty-three million people, including 11 million children, have no health insurance;

(c) Millions of low-income, sick and elderly persons and single mothers have recently been excluded from welfare programmes.

In the wealthiest and most powerful nation in history:

(a) Twenty per cent of the total population are functionally illiterate;

(b) Seventeen million women have been raped or sexually assaulted and over half the female population have been victims of violence;

(c) The 45 million people living in poverty are mainly Hispanics, blacks and children. Black children are twice as likely to die in their first year of life as white children;

(d) The black population have been used for Government-sanctioned experiments that have caused premeditated damage to their health.

The wealthiest and most powerful nation in history, which attacks Cuba and asks the Commission on Human Rights to condemn it:

(a) Is the world's leading consumer of drugs;

(b) Is characterized by police brutality against blacks, Hispanics and immigrants:

(c) Has the largest prison population in the world, and its prison inmates suffer inhuman and degrading treatment;

(d) Readily imposes the death penalty, although never, or only very exceptionally, against a white citizen with pure Aryan blood. The fact is that the electric chair, the gas chamber and lethal injections are used constantly and frighteningly against blacks, Hispanics and third-world immigrants.

The wealthiest and most powerful nation in history:

(a) Is holding over 100 political prisoners in maximum-security prisons, including 15 Puerto Rican men and women imprisoned for fighting for their country's independence. This figure does not include the hundreds of thousands of people given excessively harsh sentences just because they are blacks, Hispanics, native Americans, mestizos or Hispanics who suffer discrimination and are reduced by dire poverty to committing minor misdemeanours, real or imagined;

(b) Silently allows the spread of neo-fascist and xenophobic groups that advocate all kinds of discrimination and are stepping up their acts of violence;

(c) Has created the deadliest weapons of mass destruction and is doing nothing to halt their development;

(d) Of the industrialized countries, is the lowest contributor to development assistance, and of United Nations members, is the Organization's biggest debtor.

The nation which presumes to judge the world is the nation which dropped atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, invaded Cuba at the Bay of Pigs and waged a war in Vietnam that killed almost 4 million sons and daughters of that courageous people. It is the nation which invaded the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Panama and Somalia. It is the nation which waged a dirty war in Central America, supported the region's most genocidal dictatorships and, in the schools of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), trained their bloodthirsty leaders in methods of torture. The nation which presumes to judge the world has decided to wage wars unilaterally and to launch missiles in every direction, and only afterwards to investigate any mistakes.

The blockade and the economic war are in fact genocide. The conscience of the world cannot tolerate attempts to annihilate a people through hunger and disease. Cuba has endured such attempts for 40 years. Has such a monstrous crime ever been subjected to analysis in the Commission on Human Rights?

It is very likely that in a few hours from now, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, under the aegis of the United States, will undertake brutal air strikes against Serbia, whose people were the ones who fought most heroically in Europe against the Nazi hordes during the Second World War. The use, and abuse, of force cannot solve the world's problems. Who will defend the human rights of the innocent people who will die under the missiles and bombs that fall on a small country in cultured and civilized Europe?

If the world set itself up as a court, the United States would be unable to leave the dock for centuries to come.

The United States Government, which portrays itself as a champion of human rights, is aware of the existence on its territory of terrorist organizations which act against Cuba. It has ties to them and benefits from their money.

Recently, at two trials in Havana, documentary evidence and the evidence of witnesses demonstrated irrefutably that leaders of the well-known Cuban-American National

Foundation, together with Luis Posada Carriles, a criminal in its pay, took part in terrorist attacks and other actions against Cuba and that they have ties to United States institutions and authorities. It will be recalled that it was Luis Posada Carriles, currently based in El Salvador, and Orlando Bosch, based in Florida, neither of whom have served their sentences, who sabotaged a Cubana airliner in mid-flight in October 1976, killing 73 people.

Hired by well-known counter-revolutionaries of Cuban origin with proven ties to both the CIA and the Cuban-American National Foundation, two Salvadoran nationals were tried for planting several explosive devices in hotels in Havana, one of which killed a young Italian tourist and injured Cubans and foreigners. The aim was to damage Cuba's growing tourist industry. They also planned to plant bombs in places sacred to Cuba's history, including the tomb where the remains of Ernesto Guevara have been laid to rest. The CIA murdered Che Guevara, but it could not kill his ideas. They buried him, and others who fell with him, in unmarked graves, but humankind rescued almost all of them from their scattered tombs. Now, they were planning to blow up his remains.

The Cuban Government realizes that these trials and the denunciations made at them received little news coverage and insufficient international publicity.

That is why it must be reiterated here that the Cuban-American National Foundation, an organization registered in the United States as "non-profit, philanthropic and educational", is in fact a terrorist mafia whose large fortune, of highly dubious origin, was amassed through fraud, embezzlement, privileges and Government support, and that it has bankrolled costly political campaigns to help elect mayors, representatives and even senators and Presidents in the United States.

That organization, which contributes funds to both the Republican and the Democratic parties, lobbies, promotes and secures the passage of genocidal laws against Cuba, brings together and supports the most vicious CIA-trained terrorists, hatches and bankrolls plots to attack and murder Cuban leaders, and plans and commits crimes against workers and tourists. There is no project for aggression and military intervention against Cuba that it has not supported. That is its real history.

The terrorist groups acting from the United States to overthrow the Cuban revolution find shelter in that country's growing hostility towards Cuba. Since 1992, more than 21 laws, including the Helms-Burton and Torricelli Acts, have been passed in the United States; warning letters have been sent and entry visas denied to foreign businessmen with investments in Cuba, as a means of intimidating them; companies trading with Cuba have been blacklisted; and licences to operate flights to Cuba and exhibit medical equipment and medicines there have been denied. Criminal proceedings have been brought, threats made and fines imposed against United States firms and citizens for their relations with Cuba, and permission has even been refused for donations of medicines.

Can a country stand idly by while its neighbour passes one law after another and imposes one measure after another in an attempt to recolonize it?

Incredibly enough, despite the developments described above, there is talk of a relaxation of United States policy towards Cuba, intended to stem the growing tide of public opposition to the blockade both within and outside the United States, cripple the increasingly powerful Cuba solidarity movement, strip away the patriotic content of Cuba's resistance and deceive those who want, or whom it suits, to be deceived.

That was the intent of the measures announced by President William Clinton on 5 January 1999, which many press agencies, Governments and personalities, consciously or otherwise, hailed as a gesture towards easing the blockade.

Since the United States President has no executive power on this issue, having relinquished it, the White House spokesman was quick to explain that these measures did not represent a change of policy towards Cuba, and the Secretary of State hastily corroborated his explanation.

It should be recalled that, several months previously, in March 1998, the United States Government had announced another set of measures which were also clearly deceptive.

The alleged easing of restrictions is simply a vehicle for the Government's plans to finance and support its agents on the island and to try and subvert Cuba's internal order. They have not sold a single aspirin in Cuba, Western Union has not been able to open the office in Havana through which it planned to channel family remittances, the sending of such remittances is subject to restrictions, citizens of Cuban origin have not found it any easier to travel to Cuba and even telephone calls between the two countries are being obstructed.

With the cold war over and the United States enjoying absolute hegemony, many in the world look at this failed and ridiculous criminal policy and wonder why that country does not abandon its obstinate policy once and for all, and turn over this sordid page in history.

The real reason is the corruption of the United States political system, that same system which it wants to impose on Cuba as a model, and the prevalence of shady political interests over the basic ethical principles which politics in a country which sets itself up as an example should not renounce under any circumstances.

The equation is simple: in order to get elected or re-elected, congressional hopefuls and members of Congress are forced to raise vast sums of money to finance their campaigns. On average, a Senate race in the United States costs at least $3 million. Where does the money come from? All kinds of businesses and organizations. Some, like the Cuban-American National Foundation, will later, in the manner of Mafia godfathers, demand a vote for a bill or an amendment, the signing of another, condemnation of the inconceivable, tolerance towards organizing and training for terrorist action, or that a show be put on for international agencies. Tit for tat, as in children's games. That is the usual procedure, except for some notable exceptions where a person's prestige enables him to overcome such obstacles or where he has sufficient private resources to finance his own campaign.

Otherwise, what are we to think of the article published in the United States newspaper *El Nuevo Herald* on 5 March 1999, under the headline "Foundation meets with Clinton", reporting on a political fund-raiser for Democratic Senator Robert Torricelli of New Jersey? What are we to make of this meeting between the President of the United States and leaders of the Cuban-American National Foundation, when no one knows better than United States officials and institutions who the Foundation's leaders are and what they do? What are the Cuban people supposed to think of a President with friends like these?

Is no one going to condemn these actions and this complicity? At times, it seems as if condemnation of United Nations Member States is reserved for — and only tolerated for — underdeveloped countries.

There are many more falsehoods which could be denied and injustices which could be denounced in this room, which has witnessed a succession of outrageous vendettas against Cuba, based on a politicized, selective manipulation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which the powerful winners of the cold war have sought to use to subjugate the Cuban people and undermine their sovereignty and independence.

A paralytic invented by United States propaganda once stepped lightly through the corridors of this very building, a man to whom they also gave the title of poet and ambassador. His muse was the only thing that never left his wheelchair.

Those who know something of the history of the Cuban revolution know that, since the days of the war of liberation, Cuba has never lied.

Truth has always been the main weapon of the revolution. With it, Cuba has won the respect even of its enemies. Thanks to it, Cuba is here in this Commission. Truth has gradually weakened the United States entrenched position, with the result that, in 1998, after seven years, 19 member States of the Commission voted against the resolution condemning Cuba.

We knew that the battle was not over, however, and that the United States would continue to put pressure on other States in order to renew its shameful campaign against Cuba.

The United States looked for, and found, a convenient intermediary to embrace its immoral objectives and take the blame for the consequences, whether an embarrassing defeat or a pyrrhic victory. The Cuban Government is not surprised at the choice that was made: there will always be someone who, in the search for some small benefit, will lend himself to any vile deed, forgetting that, in some chance alliances, such action may have unforeseen costs.

Many representatives in the Commission on Human Rights will find it difficult to vote for a resolution condemning Cuba, because they are aware of what has been done in Cuba to promote all the human rights of the Cuban people, because they know that it is disgraceful to accuse Cuba of violating those rights, and because examples abound of how, despite its lack of material wealth and even despite its present difficulties and shortages, it has shown solidarity with others.

Cuba is accused of violating human rights in a resolution that is as guilty of manipulation as its predecessors.

Despite living under a blockade and under siege and with far fewer resources than others:

Where in Cuba are the illiterates, the children without schools and the teachers without classrooms?

Where is there a single citizen without health care coverage?

Where are the disabled persons without opportunities to study and work?

Where in Cuba can you find a retired person without a pension or an elderly person without protection?

Where are the women who are paid less than men for the same work?

Where is the racial discrimination or xenophobia?

Where in Cuba are the workers fired without safeguards or protection?

Where is there a single compatriot left to fend for himself?

Where can you find, throughout the length and breadth of Cuba, a case of anyone who has been tortured, murdered or disappeared?

Where in Cuba are the death squads and extrajudicial executions?

A people like the Cuban people, who have been educated in the principles of the revolution and in the ethics and morality of the revolution, can come here with their heads held high and their consciences clear.

The Cuban people are well aware that the revolution ushered in, for the first time in the country's history, genuine enjoyment of the broadest possible freedoms.

Cuba has enabled its citizens to enjoy real participation in affairs of state and in key decision-making.

Workers, peasants, intellectuals, young people, students, women, neighbours and even children have been organized into their own associations, which represent their specific interests with complete independence and join in the common effort.

Cuba is not ashamed of its press which, although small, is uncorrupted and safe from petty scheming.

Elections in Cuba are transparent. Candidates are nominated by the people and 98 per cent of the electorate go to the ballot boxes, which are guarded by children. There is not even a hint of fraud and the ballot count is public.

It is true that there is only one party, but that party does not nominate candidates or choose the first places on the lists or elect members of parliament ahead of time. In Cuba, it is the people, from the grass-roots up, who nominate and elect their representatives. The people prefer a party which unites them to fragmentation and divisiveness. But just as Cuba respects the system which each nation has chosen for itself, so it demands respect for its own. The United States does not condemn or persecute allied countries that have no parties or democracy.

Just because Cuba is not understood does not mean that it should sell itself. Remember that, centuries ago, the Church finally acknowledged that Galileo was right.

Cuba's commitment to human rights transcends its own borders. Without charging a penny and with no thought for their own interest:

(a) More than 25,000 Cuban doctors have carried out internationalist missions in the most far-flung places and more than 14,000 child victims of the Chernobyl disaster have received medical care in Cuba;

(b) Thousands of Cuban teachers have taken their knowledge to other countries and more than 41,000 adolescents and young people from 120 countries around the world have studied or are studying in Cuba. After the brutal massacre at Kasinga in Namibia, surviving orphaned children and young people found a home and a school in Cuba. Many of them are today outstanding, prominent professionals in their own country;

(c) While others traded with and even supported the racist regime in South Africa, Cubans shed their blood to help secure the independence of Angola and Namibia and, with the Angolans, the Namibians and the combatants of the African National Congress, to deal a crushing blow to the ignominious apartheid regime, a blow from which it never recovered. Cuba has no oil, diamonds, businesses, factories or anything else in Africa, nor did it ever aspire to any in exchange for its generous sacrifice.

How many of those who presume to judge Cuba can say the same?

Hundreds of doctors and health care personnel were sent to the remotest, most inhospitable areas devastated by the forces of nature in Central America, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, and thousands have been offered to these and other countries in the region and in Africa which suffer the permanent hurricane of poverty, underdevelopment

and lack of health care that is killing millions of children and adults in the world. We have been doing this throughout the 40 years of the revolution.

Cuba currently offers 1,000 scholarships a year to Latin American students to train them as medical professionals, and all the scholarships necessary for Caribbean students to pursue university studies in any field.

Effective health programmes have been undertaken in Haiti and, more recently, the Niger, two of the countries with the worst health indicators in the world. Each of these countries has been offered no fewer than 500 doctors or as many as are needed to save 100,000 lives a year, including over 60,000 children.

That all these services are offered at absolutely no cost, contributing the valuable human assets created by the revolution, is irrefutable proof that even with a blockade and an economic war, a lot can be achieved with very little.

The wealthy industrialized countries are expected to provide only a minimum of essential medicines. Many non-governmental organizations are already doing so.

Human rights are not defended by granting surpluses with strings attached but by sharing unconditionally what one has and what is needed.

For Cuba, human rights mean something more than the principles set forth in the Universal Declaration.

Human rights mean social justice, genuine equality and a fair distribution of wealth.

The time of the Commission on Human Rights and of other agencies of the United Nations system should not be wasted by those who accuse Cuba out of resentment; rather, it should be used to find solutions to the tremendous problems facing the world.

Let the Commission of Human Rights discuss and find solutions for the 60 per cent of the world's population who are poor and for the 25 per cent who are living in extreme poverty, for the 800 million who are hungry and for the 2 billion who are suffering from nutritional anaemia.

Let the Commission on Human Rights consider the 30 million Africans who are suffering from acquired immunodeficiency syndrome and have no access to medication.

The question should be asked whether it is fair to collect the debt owed by the countries where these people live, which in many cases accounts for more than half of their limited revenues, while in the United States alone, $8 billion are spent on cosmetics, in the rich countries, $17 billion are spent on pet food and, worldwide, $400 billion are spent on narcotic drugs.

Each year, almost $800 billion are invested worldwide to manufacture weapons, more than $300 billion of that amount in the United States, while every 24 hours, 68,000 more people become beggars and 25,000 children die of curable diseases.

Twenty per cent of the world's population, most of them living in developed countries, account for 86 per cent of total expenditure on consumer goods. The 225 wealthiest people in the world have fortunes amounting to the annual income of 2.5 billion human beings. The three richest people in the world have assets totalling more than the gross domestic product of the 48 least developed countries.

Deforestation is concentrated in poor countries, but more than half the world's timber and three quarters of the world's paper are used in the rich countries. The plundering of fish stocks has depleted many marine species and raised their prices, making fish inaccessible to the poor. Emissions from developed countries pollute the atmosphere, to the detriment

of the environment which belongs to everyone, while the country responsible for 25 per cent of those emissions refuses to reduce them.

While the gap between rich and poor countries widens, thousands of Central Americans are being deported from the United States, even though their countries have been devastated by a hurricane. Meanwhile, walls are being built, such as the one along the United States border with Mexico, where the number of Latin Americans who die each year is higher than the total number of people who died at the Berlin Wall.

The reason for the resolution against Cuba that has been circulated in the Commission on Human Rights is not alleged violations of human rights or the trial and sentencing of unpatriotic citizens and terrorists or the laws in defence of Cuban independence.

The reason is the pathological obduracy of the United States towards Cuba, which dates back to the first half of the nineteenth century, for even then the annexation of Cuba was a cherished objective of that country's expansionist plans.

The reason is the impotence of a powerful neighbour that has been unable to take over Cuba, as it did Puerto Rico and more than half of Mexico, much less destroy Cuba's heroic, exemplary revolution of 1959, not even after the demise of the Soviet Union and the socialist community.

The reason is the reaction of the United States to world opposition in the General Assembly, where, for the past seven years, the blockade against Cuba has met with increasingly overwhelming condemnation.

One of the weapons most often used by the United States against the Cuban revolution has been the lies carefully fed to the world. It has even been claimed that the Cuban Government engages in drug trafficking and that Fidel Castro has one of the largest fortunes in the world. What can be said is that Cuba is possibly the country in the world least affected by drugs, that its Government is a thousand light years away from the corruption that is spreading today as an uncontrollable consequence of neo-liberalism and that its President is one of this century's most honest and most extraordinary political leaders, one who has dedicated his life to his people and to all the peoples of the world with as much passion and determination as austerity and personal integrity.

The socialism which Cuba defends is sustained by morality. The Cuban people know that those in positions of responsibility in the country do not have private business interests, they work for a living. They know that workers in some State production sectors may earn as much as twice what a Minister earns. Those in positions of responsibility are not fighting to protect their personal property but to defend their ideas. There will be no inheritances or privileges for their children, only examples.

The slander and lies may continue and the Cubans will respond, as they so often do, by quoting Martí: "A just principle, from the depths of a cave, can do more than an army".

No nation should be condemned for defending its independence.

The globalized world in which we live today cannot develop on the basis of one way of thinking and one hegemonic Power.

Cuba is struggling, and will continue to struggle, for a just world.

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Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola

Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report contains the financial performance report of the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA) for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998. The General Assembly, by its resolutions 52/8 A and B of 31 October 1997 and 31 March 1998, respectively, appropriated a total amount of $175 million gross ($170,741,200 net) for the operation of MONUA for the same period.

Expenditures for the period totalled $170,428,100 gross ($166,466,100 net), resulting in an unencumbered balance of $4,571,900 gross ($4,275,100 net). The unencumbered balance was attributable primarily to reduced requirements under civilian personnel, premises/accommodation, transport and air operations, other equipment and air and surface freight, which were offset in part by additional requirements under communications, supplies and services and the absorption of the cost of the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi.

The action to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of MONUA is a decision on the treatment of the unencumbered balance of $4,571,900 gross ($4,275,100 net) for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998.

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I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA) was established as of 1 July 1997 by the Security Council in its resolution 1118 (1997) of 30 June 1997 with an initial mandate until 31 October 1997. By the same resolution, the Security Council also decided that MONUA would assume responsibility for all components and assets of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) remaining in Angola.

2. Pending the submission to the General Assembly of the proposed budget of MONUA, the Controller sought, in his letter dated 18 July 1997, the concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to enter into commitments in an amount totalling $49,975,500 gross ($48,202,500 net) for the period from 1 July to 31 October 1997 to meet the immediate and initial essential requirements of MONUA. The Committee's concurrence to this request was granted in the Chairman's letter dated 25 July 1997.

3. The initial budget of MONUA for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 was set out in the report of the Secretary-General dated 23 September 1997 (A/52/385) and amounted to $162,138,000 gross ($156,995,400 net). The budget provided for the deployment of military and civilian personnel for MONUA as well as for the phased drawdown of UNAVEM III.

4. The General Assembly, by its resolution 52/8 A of 31 October 1997, appropriated the amount of $155 million gross ($150,371,600 net) for the operation of MONUA for the same period, inclusive of the amount of $49,975,500 gross ($48,202,500 net) authorized by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the period from 1 July to 31 October 1997.

5. Subsequently, by its resolution 1149 (1998) of 27 January 1998, the Security Council extended the mandate of MONUA until 30 April 1998, including the military task force as proposed in paragraphs 35 and 36 of the Secretary-General's report to the Council of 12 January 1998 (S/1998/17).

6. In his report of 23 February 1998 (A/52/799), the Secretary-General submitted the revised budget of MONUA for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 in the amount of $180,689,000 gross ($176,430,200 net), reflecting adjustments in the repatriation schedule of military personnel, the retention of the military task force of 955 contingent personnel and requirements for the completion of the *in situ* registration and disarmament of some 6,000 personnel of the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA) who were not previously reported to the United Nations.

7. Pursuant to the Advisory Committee's recommendation in its report of 10 March 1998 (A/52/825), the General Assembly, by its resolution 52/8 B of 31 March 1998, appropriated a total amount of $175 million gross ($170,741,200 net) for the operation of MONUA for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, inclusive of the amount of $155 million gross ($150,371,600 net) appropriated earlier under the terms of its resolution 52/8 A. The reduction was based on the Advisory Committee's observations on possible areas of savings in the operational requirements of MONUA.

II. Implementation of the budget

8. Information on the operations of MONUA and on the situation on the ground during the period under review is contained in the reports of the Secretary-General to the Security

Council dated 13 August 1997 (S/1997/640), 24 September 1997 (S/1997/741), 17 October 1997 (S/1997/807), 4 December 1997 (S/1997/959), 12 and 27 January 1998 (S/1998/17 and Add.1), 13 March 1998 (S/1998/236), 16 April 1998 (S/1998/333) and 17 June 1998 (S/1998/524) and in the letters of the Secretary-General dated 21 January 1998 (S/1998/56) and 30 March 1998 (S/1998/281) to the President of the Security Council.

9. During the reporting period, the Observer Mission carried out its mandated activities in a difficult environment exacerbated by the prevailing precarious security situation in many parts of the country. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1118 (1997), a number of measures have been implemented to ensure a smooth transition from UNAVEM III to MONUA, including the reconfiguration of the Mission's civilian staffing structure, the transfer of logistical support functions from the departing UNAVEM III formed military units to a civilian contractor, gradual drawdown and repatriation of military observers and formed units, shipment of contingent-owned equipment and arrangements for the deployment of additional civilian police observers. Simultaneously, many of the activities of MONUA have been concentrated on the residual tasks of UNAVEM III, such as the completion of tasks related to the demobilization of ex-combatants of UNITA and closure of quartering areas. The expanded civilian police operation also required increased logistical assistance. Although complex politico-military developments in Angola during the period under review have placed additional strain on the material and human assets of the Observer Mission, resources provided by the General Assembly for this period proved to be adequate to meet MONUA's operational requirements.

10. During the reporting period, the military component of MONUA continued to monitor and verify the ceasefire, provide support to the quartering areas until their closure, investigate allegations of offensive troop movements, the presence of any UNITA armed elements and the existence of weapons caches and to monitor the dismantling of checkpoints and UNITA command posts, as well as the integration of UNITA soldiers into the Angolan Armed Forces. While unanticipated developments on the ground, in particular, delays in the demobilization of ex-combatants of UNITA and deterioration of the military situation, necessitated adjustments to the original withdrawal schedule of the formed military units, the planned downsizing of the military contingent of MONUA was completed by early March 1998. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1149 (1998), owing to the prevailing security situation, MONUA's military component included a military task force deployed to enable the Observer Mission to carry out its mandated tasks in an environment of confidence and safety. With regard to military observers, their withdrawal proceeded largely in accordance with the plan, with the authorized strength of 90 personnel reached by May 1998. While the Mission absorbed some of the charges for rations pertaining to the preceding period (see annex II, para. 3), the overall expenditure incurred under military personnel costs was within the approved parameters owing to savings realized under troop reimbursement and rotation and repatriation travel.

11. In view of the substantial withdrawal of MONUA military units and observers, logistical support provided by the Observer Mission to the civilian police component was augmented both in terms of geographical coverage and the increased number of police observers, which reached their authorized strength of 345 by October 1998. Civilian police officers working closely with the human rights component of MONUA continued to play a vital role in monitoring the neutrality and overall conduct of the Angolan National Police. They investigated allegations of human rights violations, verified the free circulation of people and goods, monitored the collection of weapons from the civilian population and continued to oversee security arrangements for UNITA leaders. A further increase in the authorized strength of MONUA's civilian police component to 428 personnel, effective 20 March 1998 (see Security Council resolution 1157 (1998) of 20 March 1998), was

accommodated within the approved budget as related requirements in connection with the deployment of additional civilian police observers could be absorbed within the authorized resources under the civilian police costs budget line item (see annex II, para. 5).

III. Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998

12. As indicated in table 1 below, from the total appropriation of $175 million gross ($170,741,200 net) for the operation of MONUA for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, expenditures amounted to $170,428,100 gross ($166,466,100 net), inclusive of $47,011,500 in unliquidated obligations. The resulting unencumbered balance of $4,571,900 gross ($4,275,100 net) represents, in gross terms, 3 per cent of the total appropriation. Annex I to the present report contains the financial performance report for the period 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 by budget line item, with supplementary information on significant variances presented in annex II. Annex IV provides a chart showing apportionment and expenditure for the reporting period by main budget group.

Table 1
Apportionment and expenditure
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category of expenditure	*Apportionment*	*Expenditure*[a]	*Variance*
Military personnel costs	59 034.3	58 951.3	83.0
Civilian personnel costs	45 933.1	41 564.7	4 368.4
Operational costs	65 505.6	63 258.3	2 247.3
Other programmes	268.2	287.5	(19.3)
United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi	–	2 404.3	(2 404.3)
Support account for peacekeeping operations	–	–	–
Staff assessment	4 258.8	3 962.0	296.8
Total	**175 000.0**	**170 428.1**	**4 571.9**
Income from staff assessment	(4 258.8)	(3 962.0)	(296.8)
Voluntary contributions in kind (budgeted)	–	–	–
Gross requirements	175 000.0	170 428.1	4 571.9
Net requirements	170 741.2	166 466.1	4 275.1
Voluntary contributions in kind (non-budgeted)	–	–	–
Total resources	**170 741.2**	**166 466.1**	**4 275.1**

[a] Includes an amount of $47,011,500 in unliquidated obligations.

13. Information on the deployment of military and civilian personnel during the reporting period is presented in table 2 below and the related chart is contained in annex III.

14. By its resolution 1087 (1996) of 11 December 1996, the Security Council approved the phased withdrawal of UNAVEM III formed military units, which was still under way at the time of the establishment of MONUA on 1 July 1997. As indicated in the revised budget of MONUA for the reporting period (A/52/799), it was envisaged that this withdrawal

would be completed by March 1998 by which time the authorized strength of MONUA would be reached.

15. With regard to the initial staffing of MONUA, it will be recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 52/8 A, had originally decided that the civilian establishment proposed by the Secretary-General (see A/52/385) could be reduced by at least 10 per cent. However, owing to changes in the Observer Mission's operational requirements pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1149 (1998) and 1157 (1998) (see paras. 11 and 12 above), the General Assembly subsequently accepted the Secretary-General's revised staffing establishment for the Observer Mission.

Table 2
Authorized staffing, incumbency and vacancy rates for military and civilian personnel for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998

Personnel category	*Authorized strength*	*Budgeted strength (average)*	*Actual strength (average)*	*Vacancy rate (over-incumbency) (percentage)*
Military observers				
1 July 1997 to 31 January 1998	–[a]	204	204	–
1 February to 30 June 1998	90	90	95	(5.5)
Military contingents				
1 July 1997 to 28 February 1998	–[a]	2 516	2 285	9.2
1 March to 30 June 1998	955	955	875	8.4
Civilian police				
1 July to 30 September 1997	–[b]	310	308	0.6
1 October 1997 to 31 March 1998	345	345	347	(0.6)
1 April to 30 June 1998	428	345	357	(3.5)
International staff				
1 July 1997 to 28 February 1998	–[a]	299	297	0.7
1 March to 30 June 1998	281	281	259	7.8
Local staff				
1 July 1997 to 28 February 1998	–[b]	215	218	(1.4)
1 March to 30 June 1998	225	225	208	7.6
United Nations Volunteers				
1 July 1997 to 28 February 1998	–[b]	58	57	1.7
1 March to 30 June 1998	71	71	44	38.0

[a] Phased withdrawal of personnel.

[b] Phased deployment of personnel.

16. With the completion of the phased withdrawal of UNAVEM III formed military units, the authorized strength of MONUA from 1 March 1998 comprised 90 military observers, 955 contingent personnel, 345 civilian police observers, supported by a civilian establishment of 281 international staff, 225 local staff and 71 United Nations Volunteers.

IV. Action to be taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session

17. The action to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola is to decide on the treatment of the unencumbered balance of $4,571,900 gross ($4,275,100 net) for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998.

Annex I

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998: summary statement

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category of expenditures	*(1)* *Apportionment*	*(2)* *Non-recurrent expenditures*	*(3)* *Total expenditures (inclusive of non-recurrent expenditures)*	*(4) = (1-3)* *Variance*
I. Military personnel costs				
1. Military observers	5 046.4	-	5 057.2	(10.8)
2. Military contingents	42 489.0	-	42 395.2	93.8
3. Other costs pertaining to military personnel				
(a) Contingent-owned equipment	10 547.7	-	10 547.7	-
(b) Death and disability compensation	951.2	-	951.2	-
Subtotal, line 3	11 498.9	-	11 498.9	-
Total, category I	**59 034.3**	-	**58 951.3**	**83.0**
II. Civilian personnel costs				
1. Civilian police	10 440.4	-	9 587.0	853.4
2. International and local staff	33 443.1	-	30 100.9	3 342 2
3. International contractual personnel	-	-	-	-
4. United Nations Volunteers	2 049.6	-	1 857.6	192.0
5. Government-provided personnel	-	-	19.2	(19.2)
6. Civilian electoral observers	-	-	-	-
Total, category II	**45 933.1**	-	**41 564.7**	**4 368.4**
III. Operational costs				
1. Premises/accommodation	5 519.1	-	4 202.2	1 316.9
2. Infrastructure repairs	63.6	-	15.4	48.2
3. Transport operations	5 267.2	167.7	4 383.5	883.7
4. Air operations	23 144.8	325.0	22 789.7	355.1
5. Naval operations	-	-	-	-
6. Communications	3 901.2	64.6	4 664.2	(763.0)
7. Other equipment	1 117.1	191.7	551.3	565.8
8. Supplies and services	21 539.7	-	23 307.6	(1767.9)
9. Air and surface freight				
(a) Transport of contingent-owned equipment	4 540.9	-	2 773.5	1 767.4
(b) Commercial freight and cartage	412.0	-	570.9	(158.9)
Subtotal, line 9	**4 952.9**	-	**3 344.4**	**1 608.5**
Total, category III	**65 505.6**	**749.0**	**63 258.3**	**2 247.3**

IV. Other programmes				
1. Election-related supplies and services	-	-	-	-
2. Public information programmes	218.2	30.8	187.6	30.6
3. Training programmes	50.0	-	83.0	(33.0)
4. Mine-clearing programmes	-	9.4	9.6	(9.6)
5. Assistance for disarmament and demobilization	-	-	7.3	(7.3)
Total, category IV	**268.2**	**40.2**	**287.5**	**(19.3)**
V. United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi	-	-	2 404.3	(2404.3)
VI. Support account for peacekeeping operations	-	-	-	-
VII. Staff assessment	4 258.8	-	3 962.0	296.8
Total, categories I - VII	**175 000.0**	**789.2**	**170 428.1**	**4 571.9**
VIII Income from staff assessment	(4 258.8)	-	(3 962.0)	(296.8)
IX. Voluntary contributions in kind (budgeted)	-	-	-	-
Total, categories VIII - IX	**(4 258.8)**	-	**(3 962.0)**	**(296.8)**
Gross requirements	175 000.0	789.2	170 428.1	4 571.9
Net requirements	170 741.2	789.2	166 466.1	4 275.1
X. Voluntary contributions in kind (non-budgeted)	-	-	-	-
Total resources	**170 741.2**	**789.2**	**166 466.1**	**4 275.1**

Annex II

Supplementary information on significant variances

Military personnel costs

Apportionment: $59,034,300; expenditure: $58,951,300; variance: $83,000

1. The unutilized balance of $83,000 under this heading reflects savings under military contingents ($93,800), which were offset by additional requirements under military observers budget line item ($10,800).

2. Additional requirements of $10,800 under military observers resulted from the settlement of $82,500 in mission subsistence allowance payments related to the prior period owing to the late submission of payment requests.

3. The unutilized balance of $93,800 under military contingents reflects savings realized from actual requirements (21,782 person/months) for troop reimbursement being lower than budgeted (22,812 person/months) and the lower average cost of rotation travel. However, savings were almost entirely offset by additional requirements under rations and daily allowance for the settlement of outstanding charges related to the prior period in the amount of $2.49 million and $60,300, respectively, owing to the late submission of invoices and payment requests.

Civilian personnel costs

Apportionment: $45,933,100; expenditure: $41,564,700; variance: $4,368,400

4. The unutilized balance of $4,368,400 under this heading reflects lower requirements under civilian police ($853,400), international and local staff ($3,342,200) and United Nations Volunteers ($192,000), which were offset in part by additional requirements under government-provided personnel ($19,200).

Civilian police

Apportionment: $10,440,400; expenditure: $9,587,000; variance: $853,400

5. The unutilized balance of $853,400 under this heading was primarily attributable to the favourable airfare rates secured by the Observer Mission for the deployment and rotation of personnel and initial delays in the deployment of police observers at the beginning of the budget period.

International and local staff

Apportionment: $33,443,100; expenditure: $30,100,900; variance: $3,342,200

6. The unutilized balance of $3,342,200 under this heading relates primarily to savings under international salaries and common staff costs. While the Observer Mission experienced average vacancy rates of 3 and 4 per cent for international and local staff, respectively, savings were realized owing to a combination of factors, namely, lower requirements for salaries and common staff costs as a result of the higher proportion of mission appointees (60 per cent compared with the budgeted 50 per cent), lower actual salary costs of international staff from United Nations duty stations other than Headquarters, who

accounted for some 20 per cent of the total international staff, and of local staff recruited at levels lower than the budgeted mid-point of the local salary scale.

United Nations Volunteers

Apportionment: $2,049,600; expenditure: $1,857,600; variance: $192,200

7. The unutilized balance of $192,200 under this heading was attributable to the average vacancy rate of 12.8 per cent for the period from 1 February to 30 June 1998, owing to difficulties in recruiting personnel for the human rights programme.

Operational costs

Apportionment: $65,505,600; expenditure: $63,258,300; variance: $2,247,300

8. The unutilized balance of $4,778,200 under premises/accommodation ($1,316,900), infrastructure repairs ($48,200), transport operations ($883,700), air operations ($355,100), other equipment ($565,800) and air and surface freight ($1,608,500) was offset in part by additional requirements totalling $2,530,900 under the communications ($763,000) and supplies and services ($1,767.900) budget line items.

Premises/accommodation

Apportionment: $5,519,100; expenditure: $4,202,200; variance: $1,316,900

9. The unutilized balance of $1,316,900 under this heading resulted primarily from the liquidation of obligations by the Observer Mission for the rental cost of 55 units in Villa Espa ($706,800), as MONUA was not billed by the host Government for these premises, which are owned by a government company. With the repatriation of military personnel, savings were also realized from the increased use of mission-owned prefabricated premises for the residential accommodation of civilian staff, thereby reducing reliance on commercially leased premises.

Transport operations

Apportionment: $5,267,200; expenditure: $4,383,500; variance: $883,700

10. The unutilized balance of $883,700 under this heading resulted from: (a) the utilization of available stocks of spare parts and supplies, (b) lower actual freight costs related to the transfer of heavy trucks and other vehicles from the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi and other peacekeeping missions, and (c) reduced requirements for the rental of heavy cargo trucks owing to the utilization of transferred trucks. Savings obtained from the transfer of additional vehicles to MONUA were partially offset by additional requirements under the petrol, oil and lubricants budget line item owing to the increased consumption of fuel and automotive petroleum products.

Air operations

Apportionment: $23,144,800; expenditure: $22,789,700; variance: $355,100

11. The unutilized balance of $355,100 under this heading resulted from savings under helicopter ($125,600) and fixed-wing aircraft ($313,200) operations, which were offset in part by additional requirements under aircrew subsistence allowance ($40,200) and other air operation costs ($43,500).

12. MONUA's helicopter fleet during the reporting period consisted of 7 medium-utility MI-8 helicopters, which were leased under letter-of-assist arrangements. The helicopters were deployed in Luanda and each of the six regional headquarters to provide air support for the transport of personnel and essential cargo to areas inaccessible to fixed-wing aircraft or by road transport, as well as daytime and night-time reconnaissance patrols and medical and casualty evacuations. The unutilized balance of $125,600 resulted from the number of hours flown (3,270) being lower than planned (3,360). However, these savings were offset in part by additional requirements for the replacement of two helicopters and the increase in the cost of the master aviation insurance policy from $5,500 to $13,750 per helicopter per year.

13. MONUA's fixed-wing fleet totalled 11 aircraft, comprising 2 light passenger Beechcraft B-200, 5 light-utility Cessna C-208B, 1 medium cargo/passenger Boeing B-727 and 3 heavy cargo/passenger transport Lockheed L-100 aircraft. Given the vast territory of Angola and the deployment of MONUA at Luanda, six regional headquarters and 18 provincial offices, these aircraft provided air support for the transport of military and civilian personnel, medium and heavy cargo from the Viana logistics base throughout the mission area and for medical and casualty evacuation purposes. Actual expenditure for the reporting period totalled $15,309,000, of which an amount of $980,000 was charged to obligations from the preceding financial period, resulting in a recorded expenditure of $14,329,000 for the reporting period.

Communications

Apportionment: $3,901,200; expenditure: $4,664,200; variance: ($763,000)

14. Additional requirements of $763,000 under this heading were primarily attributable to the settlement of $875,800 in charges for commercial communications related to the prior period ending 30 June 1997, invoices for which were not received before the closing of the related financial period.

Other equipment

Apportionment: $1,117,100; expenditure: $551,300; variance: $565,800

15. The unutilized balance of $565,800 under this heading was primarily attributable to savings under spare parts, repairs and maintenance resulting from the utilization of available stocks and supplies.

Supplies and services

Apportionment: $21,539,700; expenditure: $23,307 600; variance: ($1,767,900)

16. The overexpenditure of $1,767,900 under this heading was attributable to additional requirements under miscellaneous services ($2,323,400), which offset the unutilized balance under miscellaneous supplies ($555,500).

17. Additional requirements of $2,323,400 under miscellaneous services resulted primarily from the additional expenditure of $1.9 million covering demobilization costs and the settlement of pending claims related to a civilian support service contract that terminated in January 1998.

18. The unutilized balance of $555,500 under miscellaneous supplies was attributable to lower requirements for medical supplies owing to the sufficient provisioning of the military medical support unit at the time of its deployment as well as reduced requirements

for sanitation and cleaning materials, electrical supplies, field defence, quartermaster and general stores resulting from the closure of 19 team sites.

Air and surface freight

Apportionment: $4,952,900; expenditure: $3,344,400; variance: $1,608,500

19. The unutilized balance of $1,608,500 under this heading was primarily attributable to the retention of 785 contingent personnel and their equipment.

Other programmes

Apportionment: $268,200; expenditure: $287,500; variance: ($19,300)

20. While savings were realized under public information programmes ($30,600), these were offset by additional requirements under training programmes ($33,000) for travel and related costs for the participation of 9 MONUA and 2 Headquarters staff in a quality assurance training course related to the administration of the new support service contract. Additional requirements under mine-clearing ($9,400) and assistance for disarmament and demobilization ($7,300) programmes relate to the settlement of outstanding charges related to the preceding financial period.

United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi

Apportionment: none; expenditure: $2,404,300; variance: ($2,404,300)

21. The expenditure of $2,404,300 represents the Mission's prorated share of the cost of maintaining the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi for the reporting period, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/1 A of 15 October 1997.

Staff assessment

Apportionment: $4,258,800; expenditure: $3,962,000; variance: $296,800

22. The unutilized balance of $296,800 resulted from the average vacancy rate for international staff. However, some of these savings were offset by additional requirements for local staff owing to the revision of the local salary scale approved in March 1998 and effective 1 July 1997.

Income from staff assessment

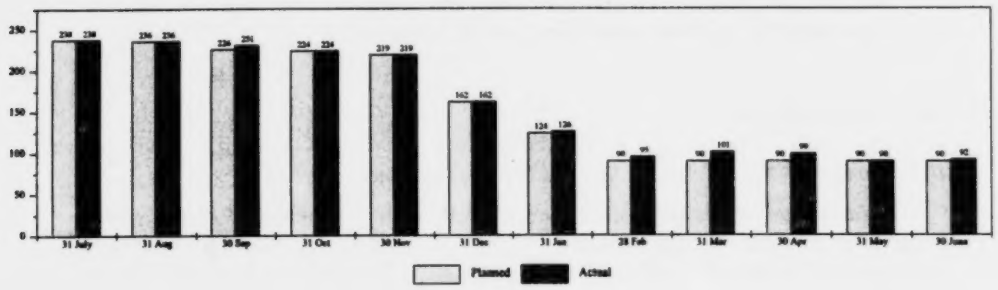
Apportionment: $4,258,800; expenditure: $3,962,000; variance: ($296,800)

23. This amount is derived from staff assessment (see para. 22 above).

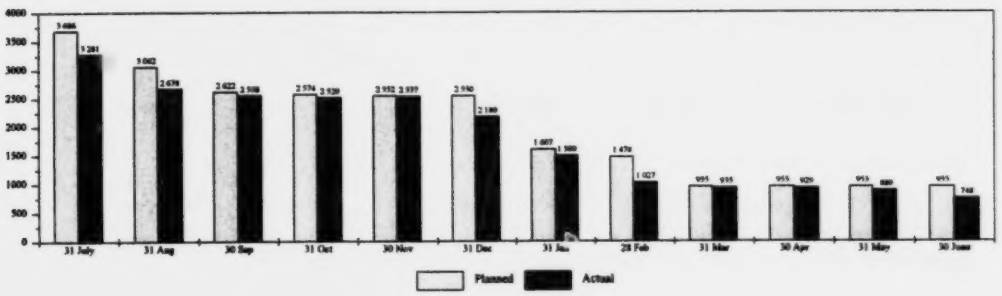
Annex III

Planned and actual deployment of military and civilian personnel for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998

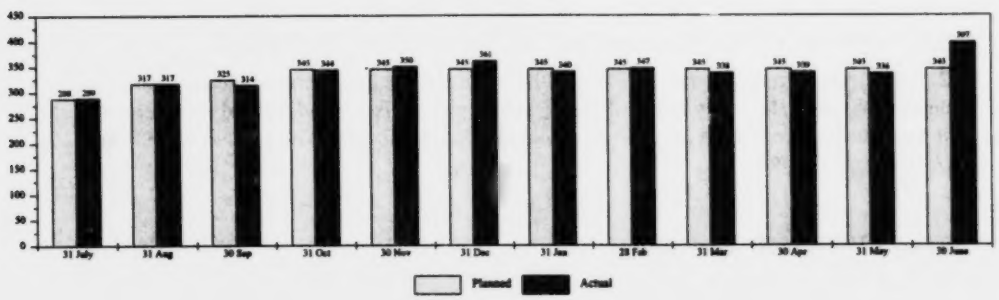
1. Military observers



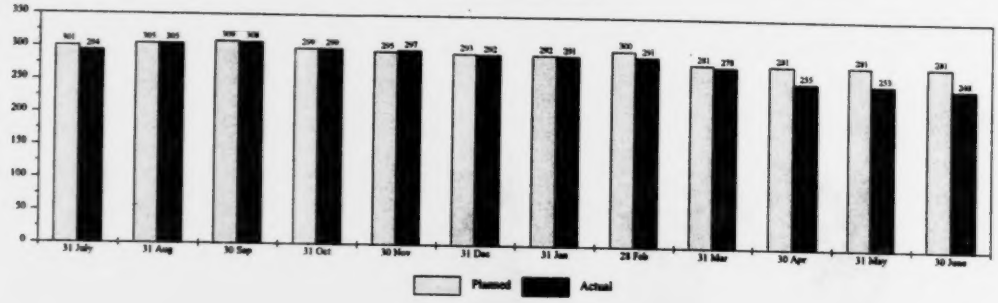
2. Military contingents



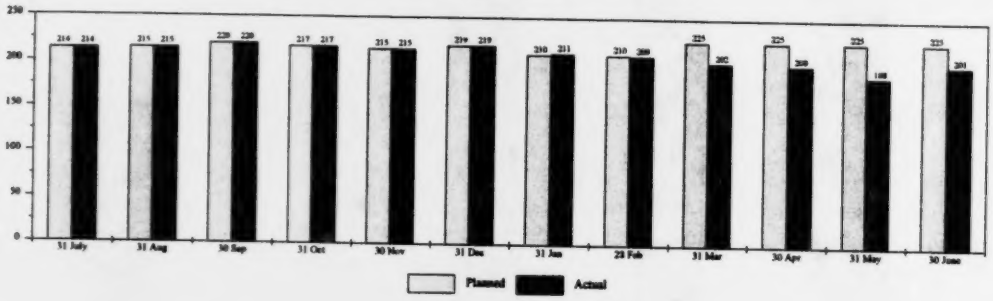
3. Civilian police



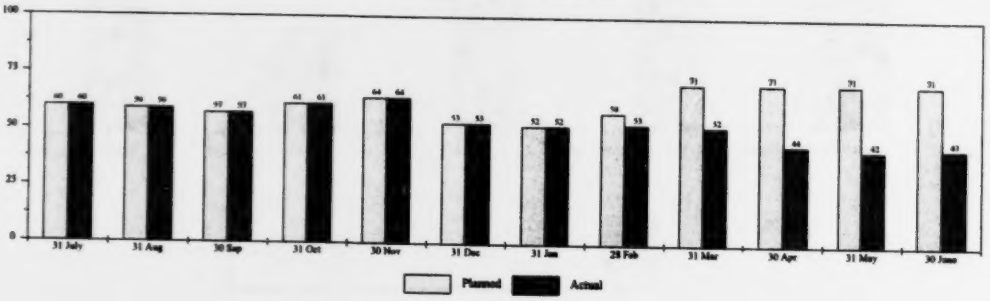
4. International staff



5. Local staff

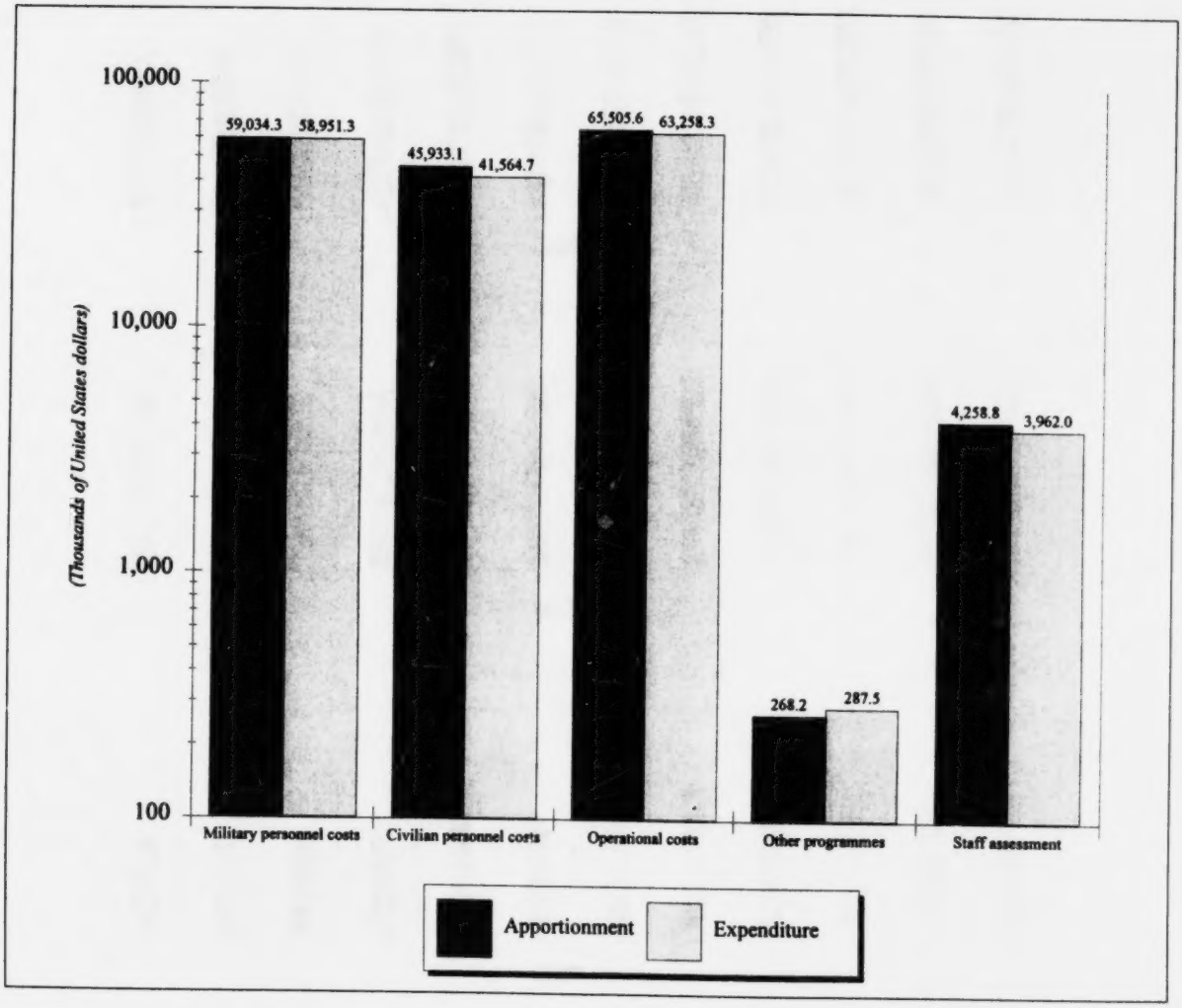


6. United Nations Volunteers



Annex IV

Apportionment and expenditure for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998



UNITED NATIONS **A S**

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/53/909
S/1999/430
15 April 1999
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 40
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 15 April 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to our earlier letters concerning Israel's acts of aggression and other practices in southern Lebanon and the occupied areas, and with particular reference to my letter of 18 February 1999 concerning Israel's attempt to expand the area it occupies to include the village of Arnoun (A/53/834-S/1999/172), I have to inform you that on 15 April 1999 Israel sent 50 men, preceded by a Merkavah tank, an armoured personnel carrier and a jeep, into and through the same village. In a new attempt to include it in the occupied zone in the south, they separated Arnoun from the liberated area and proceeded to arrest residents and to prevent inhabitants from entering.

In bringing this dangerous development to the attention of the Secretary-General, the members of the Security Council and the international community, the Lebanese Government urges swift action to put an end to a situation that constitutes a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law. It calls attention to the need to implement resolution 425 (1978), in which the Security Council calls upon Israel to withdraw unconditionally to the internationally recognized boundaries of Lebanon. The Lebanese Government holds Israel responsible for all material and other damage that may be done to civilians by this action.

I request you to have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 40, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir MOUBARAK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

99-10871 (E) 160499 160499

United Nations A/53/910

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 April 1999
English
Original: French

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 44
The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Letter dated 14 April 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the statement on the final report of the Commission for Historical Clarification in Guatemala, issued on 26 March 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Dieter **Kastrup**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

99-10883 (E) 190499 210499

Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the final report of the Commission for Historical Clarification in Guatemala issued on 26 March 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union

The European Union has noted with satisfaction the work of the Commission for Historical Clarification, which has complied with its mandate to investigate objectively and impartially and elucidate the human rights violations and violence relating to the armed confrontation in Guatemala, and to recommend measures to promote peace and national reconciliation. The publication and intended widespread dissemination of the Commission's final report represent an important step in the ongoing process towards the full implementation of the peace accords. The Union, while noting the Guatemalan Government's initial reaction to the report, is encouraged by the subsequent assurances which its ambassadors have received over the Government's commitment to the report. The Union urges the Guatemalan authorities to take all steps to implement the Commission's recommendations to the fullest possible extent as a further new element to the existing peace process in order to strengthen democratization and lay the foundations for true reconciliation in Guatemalan society.

The Union reiterates its support for all efforts to consolidate the peace process in Guatemala.

UNITED NATIONS **A S**

General Assembly
Security Council

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A/53/911
S/1999/431
15 April 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 10
REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 15 April 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward to you herewith the excerpts from the statement made by the President of Ukraine, Leonid Kuchma, at his meeting of 15 April 1999 with the representatives of the national mass media on the mediation initiative of Ukraine regarding the settlement of the Kosovo crisis (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 10, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volodymyr YEL'CHENKO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Ukraine to the United Nations

Annex

Excerpts from the statement made by the President of Ukraine, Leonid Kuchma, at his meeting of 15 April 1999 with the representatives of the national mass media on the mediation initiative of Ukraine regarding the settlement of the Kosovo crisis

Question:

The mediation initiative of the President of Ukraine on the settlement of the Yugoslav conflict was made public literally in its first hours, on March 24. Two days later, on your instructions the delegation of Ukraine headed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs left for Belgrade. At that time, nobody else has talked about mediation yet.

Have we received a response? What is the reaction of the conflicting parties?

Answer:

We keep in constant touch with the parties to the conflict, neighboring states, influential members of the international community. These efforts are being pursued both at the level of the heads of states, inter alia, over the phone, during my visits to Slovenia and Moscow to the CIS Summit, and by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the negotiations with the President of the FRY S.Milosevic, the head of the Yugoslav diplomacy Z.Jovanovic Minister B.Tarasyuk presented in detail the Ukrainian initiative and proposed the mediation offices to cease military actions. Immediately after that visit, member states of the Contact Group, including Russia, were familiarized with the proposals of Ukraine. We were the first. Not everybody accepted Ukraine at once as a mediator. Today, the situation has changed. The last example is the negotiations between Ukraine and the European Union Troika on April 13, in Kyiv, which was represented by the Foreign Ministers of Germany, Austria and Finland. Our guests not only noted a special value of the Ukrainian efforts, but called for their intensification.

Question:

Would you describe the main aspects of the mediation initiative of Ukraine. What are their specifics?

Answer:

We believe that no international dispute may be allowed to grow into a conflict, it should be settled not by means of force but through negotiations. We are also convinced that no government has the right to exercise terror and violence against its own citizens, to restrict their human and civil rights. At last, the use of force is inadmissible without a relevant decision of the UN Security Council. That is the crux of Ukraine`s position which was made public in the Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of March 24.

Proceeding from this position, we elaborated our mediation initiative, which, as I mentioned above, was presented to the leadership of the FRY and Member States of the Contact Group back on March 27 and 30.

Its primary objective is to stop sliding down to the abyss, to break down the logic of war. The way to that is in simultaneous, I repeat, **simultaneous and synchronized steps** toward each other.

The plan consists of three phases. **At the first phase,** which envisages such synchronous steps, the authorities of Yugoslavia shall stop military actions in Kosovo, withdraw their armed and security forces from the province, create conditions for unhindered return of hundreds of thousands of refugees under the international supervision of peace-keeping force. NATO member states shall stop air strikes against the FRY.

The peacekeeping contingent could be formed under the auspices of the United Nations, possibly - the OSCE, and Ukraine would be ready to take part in it. In a likewise manner, all military actions shall be synchronously ceased by the Kosovo Albanians. It is to ensure control over synchronism and inviolability of the reached agreements that the peace-keeping force should be deployed simultaneously with the withdrawal of the Yugoslav forces.

A critically important detail is that the peace-keepers should be led by a political figure, vested with the UN Security Council mandate - I would name this person a Special Envoy or Representative of the UN Secretary-General. The peace-keeping force could be staffed according to the principle of acceptability to all the parties concerned, which means, first of all, from the non-block and neutral states.

The second phase includes return of the refugees under the supervision of and accompanied by the peacekeeping forces, deployment of the OSCE humanitarian mission to ensure well-ordered return and housing of the refugees and displaced persons.

The third phase could constitute the convening of a peace conference in the capital of one of the neutral states.

During all the time until the final settlement of the problem of refugees the international community, first of all the European states, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee of the Red Cross should provide the refugees, citizens of the FRY, and the neighboring with the FRY states, where the majority of refugees are accumulated, with the necessary humanitarian aid.

Question:

The initiatives of the President of Ukraine seem to be largely echoed with the proposals by the UN Secretary-General K.Annan in his statement in Geneva of April 9, in the EU statement on Kosovo, in the position of the Non-Aligned Movement...

Answer:

We have never tried to make of our initiative a point for competition. The main objective is to bring peace to the Balkans. Ukraine does not claim to have a monopoly on mediation. The fact that our ideas are being shared by others testifies to their realistic nature from the very beginning. By the way, the sooner the parties to the conflict realize it, the better it will be.

As for their specific value - it is in the role of Ukraine. It just turned out that the status of Ukraine, which is not a party to any bloc, is acceptable to all the parties as an impartial interlocutor. For 8 years of the regained independence, we have proved to possess a skill to solve the most difficult problems in a peaceful manner. Back at home, we managed to settle in the same way an extremely precarious [ethnic, historic and humanitarian] problem in the Crimea. Abroad, we participated and shall participate in peace-keeping operations, including operations in the Balkans. We actively contribute to the resolution of the situation around Abkhasia. Ukraine is a guarantor of the conflict settlement in Transdnistria.

[Therefore] We have a moral right to state that our mediation efforts are sincere, proposals are realistic, and we have people to implement them.

Question:

Imagine that we receive positive answers from Belgrade and Brussels now. Is Kyiv ready for this?

Answer:

Certainly. I shall talk to both President S.Milosevic and Secretary-General J.Solana. Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk will be ready to fly to Washington, D.C., and Yugoslavia. We are ready to talk to Dr. I.Rugova, who can come to Kyiv.

But first – to end military actions simultaneously. The Action Plan is at the disposal of the conflicting parties. Kyiv is expecting an answer.